

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A die cushion apparatus of a press machine, comprising:
a die cushion pad;
a first pressure receiving unit for containing pressure oil; and
a second pressure receiving unit for containing sealed gas, wherein the die cushion pad,
the first pressure receiving unit and the second pressure receiving unit are structured and
arranged such that when the pressure oil is pressurized with by a pressurizing force acting upon
[[a]] the die cushion pad, whereby the sealed gas is compressed only by pressure of the
pressurized pressure oil thus pressurized.

2. **(Currently Amended)** A die cushion apparatus of a press machine, comprising:
a die cushion pad which is movable up and down according to a pressurizing force
externally applied from outside to the die cushion pad;
a first pressure receiving unit comprising a first accommodation unit, a first sliding
member and a first hydraulic chamber, the first sliding member and the first hydraulic chamber
being accommodated slidably received in the first accommodation unit so as to define the first
hydraulic chamber, wherein the first sliding member is caused to slide by a pressurizing force
acting upon the die cushion pad to thereby pressurize pressure oil in the first hydraulic chamber;
and
a second pressure receiving unit comprising a second accommodation unit, a second
sliding member, a second hydraulic chamber and a gas pressure chamber, the second sliding
member being disposed between the second hydraulic chamber and the gas pressure chamber
being separated by the second sliding member, only oil pressure and gas pressure acting on the
second sliding member, the second sliding member, the second hydraulic chamber and the gas
pressure chamber being accommodated slidably received in the second accommodation unit so as
to define the second hydraulic chamber and the gas pressure chamber, wherein the second sliding
member is caused to slide by a pressure of the first hydraulic chamber to thereby compress gas in
the gas pressure chamber.

3. **(Currently Amended)** A die cushion apparatus of a press machine, comprising:

a die cushion pad which is movable up and down according to a pressurizing force externally applied from outside to the die cushion pad;

a first pressure receiving unit comprising a first accommodation unit, a first sliding member and a first hydraulic chamber, the first sliding member ~~and the first hydraulic chamber~~ being ~~accommodated~~ slidably received in the first accommodation unit so as to define the first hydraulic chamber, wherein the first sliding member is caused to slide by a pressurizing force acting upon the die cushion pad to thereby pressurize pressure oil in the first hydraulic chamber; and

a second pressure receiving unit comprising a second accommodation unit, a second sliding member, a second hydraulic chamber and a gas pressure chamber, the second sliding member being disposed between the second hydraulic chamber and the gas pressure chamber ~~being separated by the second sliding member, only oil pressure and gas pressure acting on the second sliding member~~, the second sliding member, ~~the second hydraulic chamber and the gas pressure chamber~~ being ~~accommodated~~ slidably received in the second accommodation unit so as to define the second hydraulic chamber and the gas pressure chamber, wherein the second sliding member is caused to slide by a pressure of the first hydraulic chamber to thereby compress gas in the gas pressure chamber;

a hydraulic pump that supplies pressure oil to the first hydraulic chamber;

a first check valve that prevents a flow of the pressure oil from the first hydraulic chamber to [[a]] the hydraulic pump;

a second check valve that prevents a flow of the pressure oil from the second hydraulic chamber to the first hydraulic chamber; and

an opening/closing unit that closes a flow of the pressure oil from the second hydraulic chamber to a hydraulic tank when the second sliding member slides in the direction of compressing the gas in the gas pressure chamber, and opens the flow of the pressure oil from the second hydraulic chamber to the hydraulic tank when the second sliding member slides in the direction of compressing the pressure oil in the second hydraulic chamber.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The die cushion apparatus according to ~~claims~~claim 3, wherein opening degree of the opening/closing unit decreases according to sliding of the second sliding member in the direction of compressing the pressure oil in the second hydraulic chamber.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The die cushion apparatus according to ~~claims~~claim 3, further comprising a first rod connected to the die cushion pad and a second rod connected to the first sliding member, wherein the first and second rods are structured and arranged such that

when the die cushion pad is moved down, the first rod and the second rod are abutted and a pressurizing force acting upon the die cushion pad is applied to the first sliding member.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A method of reducing a surge pressure generated in a die cushion apparatus of a press machine, said method comprising:

~~a pressure oil pressurizing step of applying a pressurizing force to act upon a die cushion pad of the die cushion apparatus to thereby pressurize pressure oil; and~~

~~a gas pressurizing step of pressurizing a gas by applying only a pressure of the pressurized pressure oil pressurized in the pressure oil pressurizing step to a the gas.~~